

IV. REMARKS

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as unpatentable over Ueda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,383,393). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that claims 3 and 4 are anticipated by Ueda because Ueda teaches a printing unit having a plate cylinder split into a pair of halves, a blanket cylinder in rolling contact with the plate cylinder, axial adjustment means for causing axial displacement of each half of the plate cylinder, which has the same structure as the one recited in claim 3, circumferential adjustment means for causing circumferential displacement of one of the halves of the plate cylinder, which has the same structure as the one recited in claim 4, and drive means for jointly driving the plate cylinder and the blanket cylinder.

However, in Ueda, a pair of printing units each having a plate cylinder and a blanket cylinder are jointly driven by the drive means (108) as a common driving source, but each printing unit is not driven by an individual drive means. Accordingly, the drive means (108) can drive the plate cylinders and the plate blanket cylinders at a speed in accordance with the traveling speed of the web and jointly adjustably vary the rotational speeds of the plate cylinders with a view to approximate positioning of the two pairs of images longitudinally of the web. However, the drive means (108) cannot individually adjustably vary the rotational speed of each of the plate cylinders with a view to fine positioning of the pair of images longitudinally of the web. Therefore, in the printing press taught by Ueda, it is necessary for the pair of halves of the plate cylinders to have a pair of circumferential adjustment means for their respective fine positionings, resulting in high manufacturing cost.

To the contrary, in the printing press claimed in claim 3 or 4, each of the printing units is driven by an individual drive means capable of adjustably varying the rotational speed of the plate cylinder with a view to fine positioning of the pair of images longitudinally of the web. Therefore, in the printing press claimed in claims 3 or 4, it is necessary only for one of the pairs of the halves of the plate cylinders to have a circumferential adjustment means for its fine positioning relative to the other half.

Accordingly, one of the pair of circumferential adjustment means can be omitted as compared to the printing press taught by Ueda, resulting in a low manufacturing cost.

Therefore, claims 3 and 4 are not anticipated by Ueda.

In these respects, Schneider merely teaches that each cylinder group 10 formed by a blanket cylinder and a plate cylinder is driven by a separate driving motor, but this plate cylinder is not split into a pair of halves. That is, Schneider does not teach that each printing unit including a plate cylinder split into a pair of halves is driven by an individual drive means, that the drive means can adjustably vary the rotational speed of the plate cylinder with respect to the predetermined traveling speed of the web with a view to fine positioning the pair of images longitudinally of the web. Thereby, one of the pair of circumferential adjustment means can be omitted. Therefore, the inventions claimed in claims 3 and 4 are distinguished Ueda even though Schneider is also applied and considered.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claims 3 and 4 as mentioned above. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the features of the applied art because such combination would not result in the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3 and 4 are allowable over the applied art.

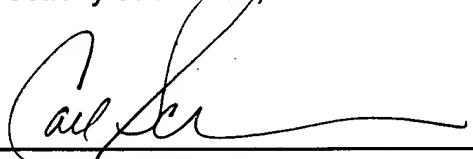
Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



David T. Nikaido
Reg. No. 22,663

Carl Schaukowitch
Reg. No. 29,211

RADER, FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC
1233 20th Street, N.W. Suite 501
Washington, D.C. 20036
Tel: (202) 955-3750
Fax: (202) 955-3751
Customer No. 23353

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